THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) There is no conclusive scientific evidence on the harmful effects of Asbestos. Further, the units manufacturing Asbestos Sheets have to follow various safety norms prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standards to protect workers employed in these units against the harmful effects of Asbestos. Therefore, in the absence of any conclusive evidence to suggest that manufacture of Asbestos Sheets causes lung cancer amongst workers employed in these units, it is not desirable to ban production of these sheets.

Benefits to farmers from Agricultural Export Zones

†4990. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers are being benefited substantially with the setting up of special Agricultural Export Zones;

(b) if so, whether Government are oonsidering to take any steps for making it more effective; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) One of the objectives of setting up Agri Export Zones (AEZ) is to benefit the farmer, a vital component of the entire supply chain from farm to the market. Specifically, AEZs contemplate farmer-oriented benefits such as training in pre-and-post harvest technologies, distribution of quality seeds, land development etc.

New Auto Policy

4991. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new auto policy is claimed to be a roadmap for the automobile industry after the removal of quantitative restrictions; and

(b) if so, what are the details of this policy and its impact on the future growth of the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The new auto policy has already been laid before the Parliament on 7th March, 2002. The

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Policy aims to promote integrated, phased, enduring and self-sustained growth of the Indian automotive industry.

Concern expressed by U.S.A. on trade barriers

4992. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite India's recent elimination of quantitative restrictions and reduction of import duties, the United States has raised fresh concerns about the barriers in trade with India on account of high taxes and tariffs;

(b) if so, whether the US Trade Representatives' Report for 2002 on foreign barriers has taken note of India's dismantling of QRs and tariff cuts;

(c) if so, what are the main objections raised in the Report; and

(d) the extent to which India has been able to remove the concern of US Government on trade barriers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The US has raised concerns about the barriers in trade with India. The US Trade Representatives' Report for 2002 on foreign barriers has taken note of India's dismantling of QRs, tariff cuts and improved access to the Indian market with the elimination of QRs and tariff cuts.

(c) The US has raised concerns with regard to the taxes and tariffs being high, non trade barriers affecting trade, like labelling and registration, SPS requirements, etc. and also the deficiencies in the protection of IPRs.

(d) US Government has been apprised about the reduction in tariffs and removal of QRs. They have also been infomed about the actions being taken for protection of IPRs. US has acknowledged that actions taken by the Indian Governments has increased market access of US firms.

Industrialisation of Andhra Pradesh

4993. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the details of schemes being implemented and the incentives being given by Government for the rapid industrialisation of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) The details of the schemes being